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Henry Tiarks' wife had been taken ill this afternoon, so he [redacted] suggested he would, if we wished, bring his daughter, Lady Tavistock, as a substitute. She is a famous beauty, with rather oriental features. It was a gay dinner, especially since most of the guests had long known each other.

October 30, 1962 - Tuesday

Today was the opening of Parliament. Therefore, E and I set out at ten o'clock this morning, in evening clothes and decorations, for the Palace of Westminster.

Everything in the West End of London is carefully geared to this occasion, certain streets being shut to ordinary traffic. We arrived at the Peer's Entrance to the House of Lords, as instructed, promptly at 10:35. At 10:45, the entrance was closed. I was shown to the Diplomatic Box, and E to the Royal Gallery Foreign Box. The House was packed. As was the case last year, the ceremonies were timed to the minute, and went off in good order. Since there is not enough room for all the Peers and visitors to sit down, there were numbers of standees. Oneof the oddities to me is that when the Cabinet appears by invitation in the Chamber of Peers, preceded by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, they are left standing wherever they can find a place amongst other visitors at the bar, where they remain while the Queen reads her speech from the Throne. ~~Many of my colleagues wore their~~ diplomatic uniforms, although the majority, like myself, have none. The most elaborate and effective was, I thought, that of the Spanish Ambassador, with the Dane a close second. A couple of dozen peeresses wore tiaras, ~~many of them~~ magnificent.

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Designations of [redacted] some of the officials are quaint: ~~The Queen's Most~~ Excellent Majesty was preceded or accompanied by such characters as The Sword of State, The Cap of Maintenance, Woman of the Bedchamber, The Mistress of the

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